

IN THE CLAIMS

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An electronic device adapted to be detachably mounted to main equipment for providing optional data to the main equipment and permitting optional functions to be executed, the electronic device comprising:

a data memory unit;

software data stored in the data memory unit, the software data including a plurality of portions each containing driver data corresponding to a specific computer environment selected from a plurality of different specific computer operating environments, for permitting execution of a respective one of a plurality of separately selectable functions in accordance with the specific computer operating environment of a main equipment selected from a plurality of main equipments, each main equipment being operable in accordance with a respective one of the plurality of different specific computer operating environments;

an interface unit in form of a memory card interface for transfer of data from the electronic device to the selected main equipment and from the selected main equipment to the electronic device; and

an output unit operable, upon mounting the electronic device to the selected main equipment and selecting a first function from among~~one of~~ said plurality of separately selectable functions, to output a first portion~~one~~ of said portions of the software data containing said driver data for said selected first function and corresponding to said selected specific computer operating environment from the data memory unit to the selected main equipment through said interface unit for installation of said driver data in the selected main equipment to permit said selected first function to be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is

mounted to the selected main equipment, and upon mounting the electronic device to the selected main equipment and selecting a second function from among said plurality of separately selectable functions, to output a second portion of said portions of the software data containing said driver data for said selected second function and corresponding to said selected specific computer operating environment from the data memory unit to the selected main equipment through said interface unit for installation of said driver data in the selected main equipment to permit said selected second function to be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main equipment.

11. (previously presented) The electronic device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the software data are stored in the data memory unit using a file format.

12. (previously presented) The electronic device as defined in claim 10, wherein storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying the plurality of functions are stored at leaders of address spaces in the data memory unit, and the portions are stored at the storage addresses corresponding to the keywords.

13. (currently amended) An electronic apparatus, comprising:

a main apparatus selected from a plurality of main apparatuses, each main apparatus being operable in accordance with a respective one of a plurality of different specific computer operating environments; and

an electronic device detachably mounted to the selected main apparatus for exchanging optional data with the selected main apparatus, the electronic device including a data memory unit, and software data stored in the data memory unit, the software data including a plurality of portions each containing driver data corresponding to a specific computer environment

selected from the plurality of different specific computer operating environments, for permitting execution of a ~~respective one of a~~ plurality of separately selectable functions in accordance with the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus when the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus, an interface unit in form of a memory card interface unit for transfer of data from the electronic device to the selected main apparatus and from the selected main apparatus to the electronic device, the selected main apparatus including an identification unit operable to identify the portions stored in the data memory unit of the electronic device, and to obtain a first the portion corresponding to a first the selected function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus from the electronic device through the interface unit upon selecting a respective one the first function from among of the plurality of functions and to install the obtained first portion on the selected main apparatus, such that the selected first function can be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus, and to obtain a second portion corresponding to a second selected function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus from the electronic device through the interface unit upon selecting the second function from among the plurality of functions and to install the obtained second portion on the selected main apparatus, such that the selected second function can be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus.

14. (previously presented) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the software data are stored in the data memory using a file format, and the identification unit is operable to identify the portion corresponding to the selected

function using the file format.

15. (previously presented) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying the plurality of portions are stored at leaders of address spaces in the data memory unit, the portions being stored at the storage addresses corresponding to the keywords, and the identification unit is operable to identify the portion corresponding to the selected function on the basis of the keywords.

16. (currently amended) A method of obtaining driver software data by a main apparatus from an electronic device detachably mounted thereto, the main apparatus selected from a plurality of main apparatuses, each main apparatus being operable in accordance with a respective one of a plurality of different specific computer operating environments, to enable an optional function to be executed while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus, the method comprising:

a) storing driver software data in the electronic device, the driver software data including a plurality of portions, each portion for enabling execution of a respective one of a plurality of separately selectable functions including first and second separately selectable functions in accordance with the respective specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus when the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus;

b) selecting ~~one~~ one of the first and second functions~~function~~ from the plurality of separately selectable functions;

c) when the first function is selected, identifying the a first portion of the software data corresponding to the selected first function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus from among the plurality of portions corresponding to the

respective functions and respective specific computer operating environments, and when the second function is selected, identifying a second portion of the software data corresponding to the selected second function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus from among the plurality of portions corresponding to the respective functions and respective specific computer operating environments;

d) transferring the identified portion of the software data from the electronic device to the selected main apparatus through an interface unit having a form of a memory card interface; and

e) installing the identified portion of the software data on the selected main apparatus to enable execution of the selected function using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus.

17. (previously presented) The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 16, wherein the step of storing includes storing the driver software data in the electronic device using a file format, and the step of transferring transfers the identified portion of the driver software data based on the file format.

18. (previously presented) The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 16, wherein the step of storing includes storing storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying the plurality of portions of driver software data at leaders of address spaces in the electronic device, and storing the portions of the driver software data at the storage addresses corresponding to the keywords, and the step of identifying includes identifying the portion of the driver software data corresponding to the selected function on the basis of the keywords.

19. (previously presented) The electronic device as

claimed in claim 10, wherein said plurality of functions includes at least one function which is not a memory function.

20. (previously presented) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said plurality of functions includes at least one function which is not a memory function.

21. (previously presented) The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 16, wherein said plurality of functions includes at least one function which is not a memory function.

22. (new) The electronic device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said plurality of functions includes a network interface for providing connection between the main equipment and an external computer network.

23. (new) The electronic device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said network interface includes an Ethernet interface.

24. (new) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said plurality of functions includes a network interface for providing connection between the main equipment and an external computer network.

25. (new) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said network interface includes an Ethernet interface.

26. (new) The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 16, wherein said plurality of functions includes a network interface for providing connection between the main equipment and an external computer network.

27. (new) The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 26, wherein said network interface includes an Ethernet interface.

28. (new) An electronic device adapted to be detachably mounted to main equipment for providing optional data to the main equipment and permitting optional functions to be executed, the main equipment including a computer having a processor and a

random access memory connected via a system bus, the electronic device comprising:

an exterior housing having a shape similar to that of a memory card with at least generally flat top and bottom major surfaces separated by a thickness of the electronic device, the dimensions of the top and the bottom major surfaces being substantially greater than the thickness, the housing having an end and a plurality of spaced apart features extending away from the end;

a plurality of contacts interleaved with the spaced apart features in a row at the end, the contacts being interleaved with the plurality of features, the plurality of contacts being connected to the main equipment when the electronic device is mounted to the main equipment;

a data memory unit contained in the housing;

software data stored in the data memory unit, the software data including a plurality of portions each containing driver data corresponding to a specific computer environment selected from a plurality of different specific computer operating environments, for permitting execution of a respective one of a plurality of separately selectable functions in accordance with the specific computer operating environment of a main equipment selected from a plurality of main equipments, each main equipment being operable in accordance with a respective one of the plurality of different specific computer operating environments;

an interface unit in form of a memory card interface for transfer of data from the electronic device via the plurality of contacts to the selected main equipment and from the selected main equipment to the electronic device when the electronic device is mounted to the main equipment; and

an output unit operable, upon mounting the electronic device to the selected main equipment and selecting one of said

plurality of functions, to output one of said portions of the software data containing said driver data for said selected function and corresponding to said selected specific computer operating environment from the data memory unit to the selected main equipment through said interface unit for installation of said driver data in the selected main equipment to permit said selected function to be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main equipment.

29. (new) An electronic apparatus, comprising:

a main apparatus selected from a plurality of main apparatuses, each main apparatus including a computer having a processor and a random access memory connected via a system bus and being operable in accordance with a respective one of a plurality of different specific computer operating environments; and

an electronic device detachably mounted to the selected main apparatus for exchanging optional data with the selected main apparatus, the electronic device having an exterior housing having a shape similar to that of a memory card, the housing having at least generally flat top and bottom major surfaces separated by a thickness of the electronic device, the dimensions of the top and the bottom major surfaces being substantially greater than the thickness, the housing having an end and a plurality of spaced apart features extending away from the end, the electronic device further including a plurality of contacts interleaved with the spaced apart features in a row at the end, the plurality of contacts being connected to the main equipment when the electronic device is mounted to the main equipment, the electronic device including a data memory unit contained in the housing, and software data stored in the data memory unit, the software data including a plurality of portions each containing driver data corresponding to a specific computer



environment selected from the plurality of different specific computer operating environments, for permitting execution of a respective one of a plurality of separately selectable functions in accordance with the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus when the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus, an interface unit in form of a memory card interface unit for transfer of data from the electronic device via the plurality of contacts to the selected main apparatus and from the selected main apparatus to the electronic device, the selected main apparatus including an identification unit operable to identify the portions stored in the data memory unit of the electronic device, and to obtain the portion corresponding to the selected function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus from the electronic device through the interface unit upon selecting a respective one of the plurality of functions and install the obtained portion on the selected main apparatus, such that the selected function can be executed using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus.

30. (new) A method of obtaining driver software data by a main apparatus from an electronic device detachably mounted thereto, the main apparatus selected from a plurality of main apparatuses, each main apparatus including a computer having a processor and a random access memory connected via a system bus and being operable in accordance with a respective one of a plurality of different specific computer operating environments, to enable an optional function to be executed while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus, the method comprising:

storing driver software data in the electronic device, the electronic device having an exterior housing having a shape similar to that of a memory card with at least generally flat

top and bottom major surfaces separated by a thickness of the electronic device, the dimensions of the top and the bottom major surfaces being substantially greater than the thickness, the housing having an end and a plurality of spaced apart features extending away from the end, the electronic device further including a plurality of contacts interleaved with the spaced apart features in a row at the end, the driver software data including a plurality of portions, each portion for enabling execution of a respective one of a plurality of separately selectable functions in accordance with the respective specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus when the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus;

mounting the electronic device to the main equipment such that the contacts of the electronic device are connected to the main equipment;

selecting one function from the plurality of separately selectable functions;

identifying the portion of the software data corresponding to the selected function and corresponding to the specific computer operating environment of the selected main apparatus;

transferring the identified portion of the software data from the electronic device to the selected main apparatus via the plurality of contacts; and

installing the identified portion of the software data on the selected main apparatus to enable execution of the selected function using the electronic device while the electronic device is mounted to the selected main apparatus.